A DELL COMIC

DELL

A DELL COMIC

JUNE-JULY

10¢

HENRY ALDRICH

HENRY ALDRICH goes on vacation

There was quite a group sitting in the drugstore having sodas late Friday afternoon. Homer Brown was there. George Bigelow and Willie Mardull were on hand. Geraldine, Agnes, Ellie . . . nearly the whole gang except Henry Aldrich.

It was the last day of school and the talk was of the coming holidays. The conversation turned to summer jobs.

Homer hadn't found anything as yet. Willie was going to summer school to catch up. George Bigelow's father had offered him a splendid job with his company. George was enthusiastically describing it when Henry walked in.

"And what have you lined up for this summer, Henry?" asked Homer.

"Yeh," George broke in, "what's our wonder boy going to do?"

"I've got a job on week-ends over at Silver Beach," Henry began.

George laughed. "I suppose you're going to be a life guard there?"

Henry paused and frowned. "Yes," he snapped back, "as a matter of fact, I *am*!"

"A life guard?" Geraldine cried! "Oh, Henry, how grand, tell us about it!"

But Henry was very evasive and soon left for home.

"Probably he's got to get plenty of rest," explained Homer, "to be in shape for his job tomorrow."

. . .

"What's bothering you, Henry?" Mrs. Aldrich asked at dinner that evening. "You haven't had your third helping of roast tonight."

"Oh, nothing, Mother, just a detail of my job tomorrow."

"Henry, one word of advice . . ." Mr. Aldrich began.

"Yes, Father?"

"Don't eat too many of those hot-dogs on the job," Sam Aldrich warned. "Just because you're working in the concession and they're free is no reason to gorge on them, understand?"

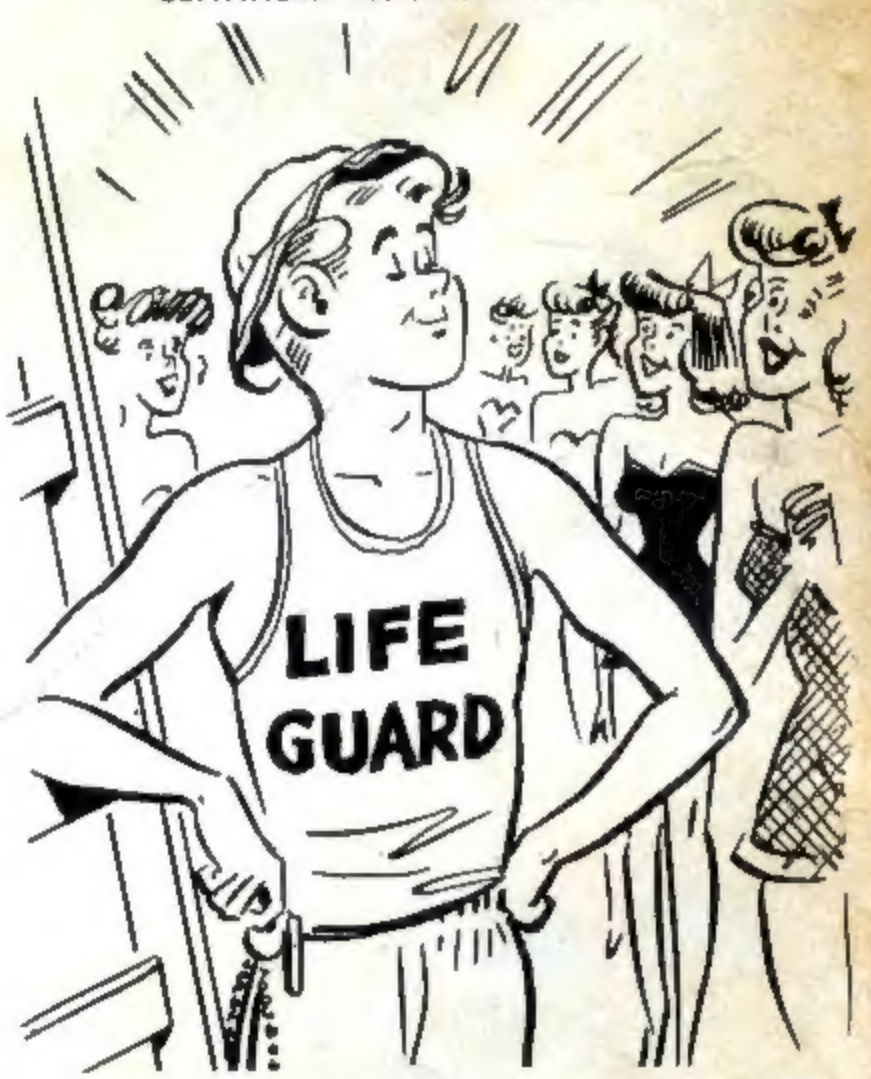
"Yes, Father," Henry sighed, "I understand."

. . .

The next day, Henry went to work in the hot-dog and soda-pop stand at Silver Beach. In white cap and apron, he was serving up hot-dogs and eating every fifth or sixth one, when who should appear but Homer!

"Gee, Henry, what are you doing *here*? I thought . . ."

CONTINUED ON INSIDE BACK COVER



HENRY ALDRICH, No. 6, June-July, 1951. Published bi-monthly by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 261 Fifth Ave., New York 16, N. Y.; George T. Delacorte, Jr., President; Helen Meyer, Vice-President; Albert P. Delacorte, Vice-President. Subscriptions in U.S.A. 60 cents per year, single copies 10 cents. Foreign subscriptions $1.00 per year. Canadian subscriptions 60 cents per year. Copyright, 1951, by Clifford Goldsmith. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co. The characters and the events portrayed in this publication are imaginary and fictitious, and any resemblance to actual happenings and persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

HENRY ALDRICH

GEE WHIZ, MOTHER, I'VE JUST GOT TO HAVE TEN DOLLARS! MAYBE FATHER COULD TAKE IT OUT OF MY ALLOWANCE AT FIFTY CENTS A WEEK...

TEN DOLLARS IS MORE THAN WE'VE EVER GIVEN YOU AT ONE TIME, HENRY. I--

IT'S SO *VERY* IMPORTANT, MOTHER. I CAN'T GO FORMAL WITHOUT A *TUXEDO!* ALL THE OTHER FELLOWS HAVE THEM AND--

H.A. '6-516

RUSSELL'S MEN'S SHOP CHARGES TEN DOLLARS TO RENT ONE-- BUT THAT INCLUDES ALTERATIONS!

IT'S A LOT OF MONEY, HENRY.

YOUR FATHER SHOULD BE HOME ANY MINUTE...

HE'LL HAVE THE FINAL WORD.

I OVERHEARD YOUR DISCUSSION AND I DO HAVE THE FINAL WORD...

NO!

GEE WHIZ, FATHER!

I REPEAT ... NO!

SAM! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BE SO STERN WITH THE BOY! IF MY MEMORY SERVES ME CORRECTLY, YOU HAD A TUXEDO FOR YOUR HIGH SCHOOL FORMAL! YOU TOOK ME... REMEMBER?

YES, ALICE, I DO REMEMBER... AND YOU WERE THE PRETTIEST GIRL AT THE DANCE!

OH, SAM.

I *DO* INTEND TO GET HENRY A TUXEDO, BUT I WANT IT TO BE *A SURPRISE!*

THAT'S SWEET, SAM.

I HAD LUNCH WITH BIGELOW AND BROWN TODAY. THEY BOUGHT TUXEDOS FOR GEORGE AND HOMER ...AND NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT SAM ALDRICH NEGLECTED *HIS* CHILDREN!

EVENING NEWS

I WON'T TELL HIM, SAM... WE'LL KEEP IT A SECRET...

A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK!

OH, HE'LL LOOK SO HANDSOME IN A TUXEDO!

EVENING NEWS

HI, HENRY!

?

I SAID... HI, HENRY!

OH, HELLO, HOMER...

I WAS JUST COMING OVER TO YOUR HOUSE... I'VE GOT A PROBLEM...

DON'T TELL ME, LET ME GUESS...THAT LATIN EXAM...? THE SMASHED FENDER ON YOUR FATHER'S CAR...? THE BROKEN WINDOW IN CHEMISTRY CLASS...? NO-- YOU LOOK TOO WORRIED FOR ANYTHING AS TRIVIAL AS THAT-- HMMM...

I KNOW-- GERALDINE!!

WELL...YES, IN A WAY...

YOU SEE, HOMER, I CAN'T ASK HER TO THE FORMAL BECAUSE MY FATHER WON'T LEND ME THE TEN DOLLARS TO RENT A TUXEDO... I'VE BEEN AVOIDING HER...

SPEAKING OF THE DANCE-

OMIGOSH!

WOOSH!

IT'S GERALDINE AND THAT RAT GEORGE BIGELOW!

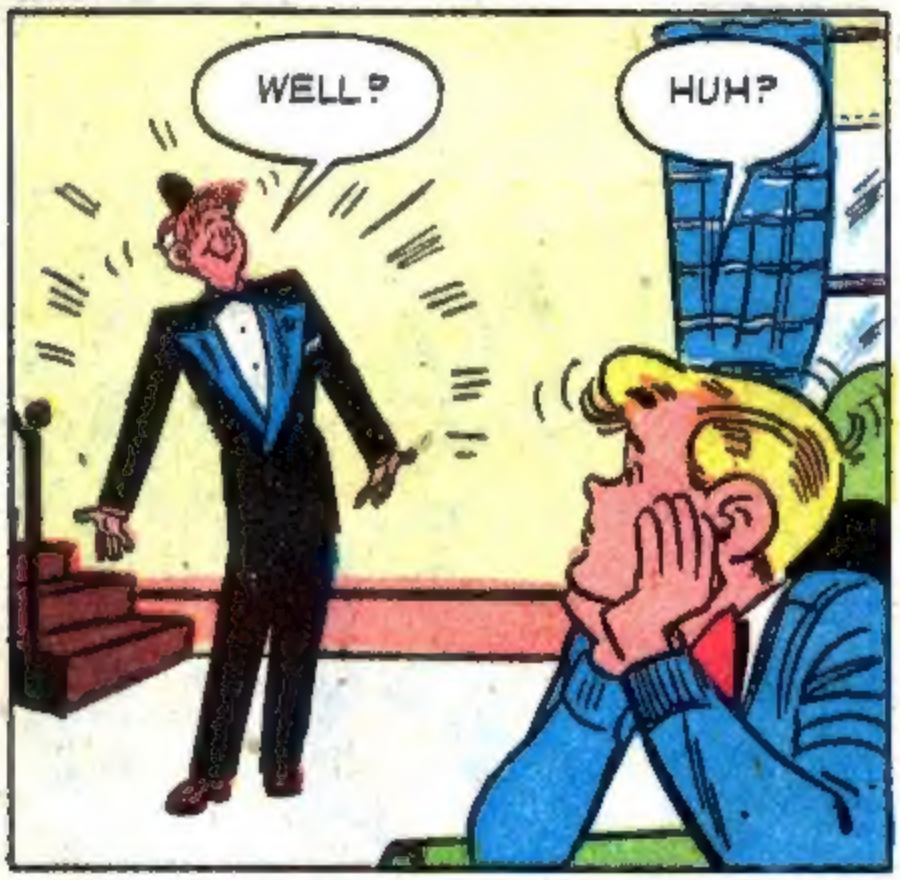
I'LL BET HE'S ASKING HER TO THE DANCE!... GEE WHIZ, I DON'T DARE LET HER SEE ME!

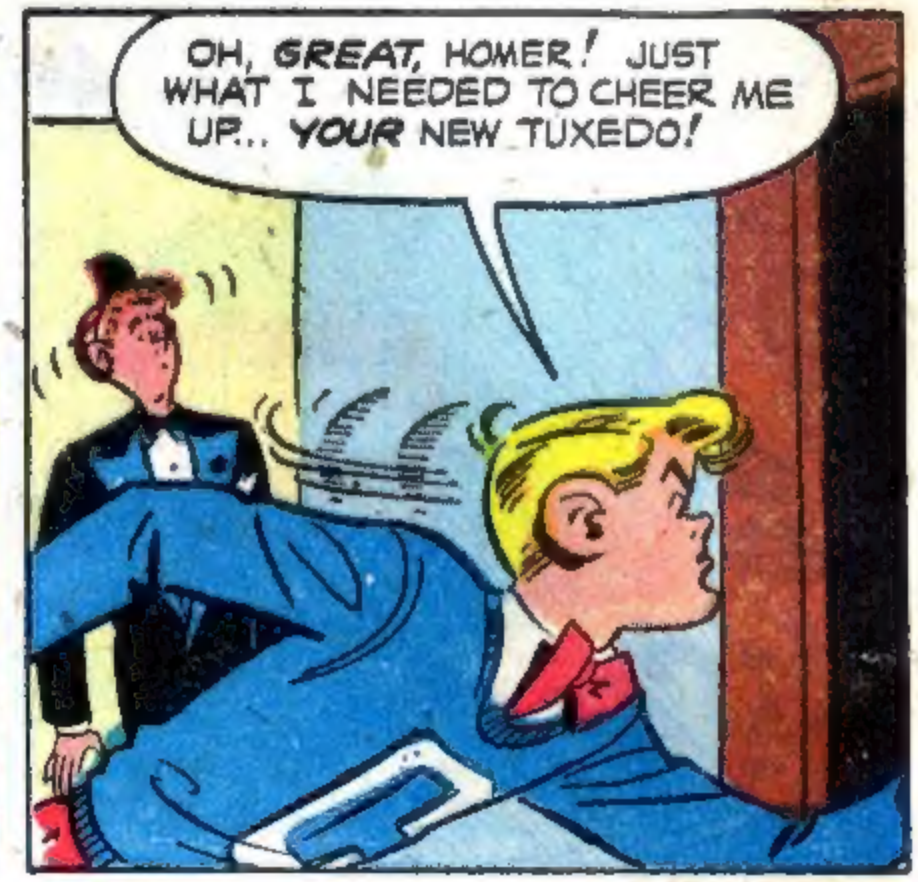
HOW CAN I FACE HER AND *NOT* ASK HER TO THE DANCE?

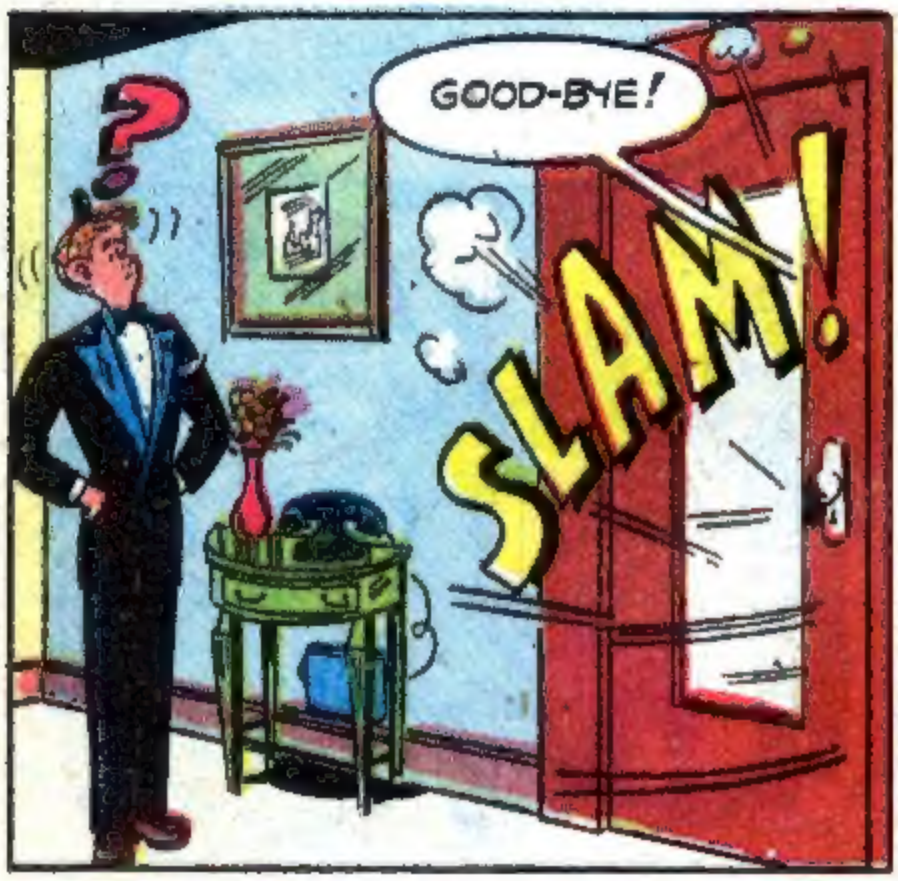
WHAT YOU NEED IS A LITTLE CHEERING UP, PAL. COME ON OVER TO MY HOUSE AND I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING TO TAKE YOUR MIND OFF YOUR PROBLEMS!

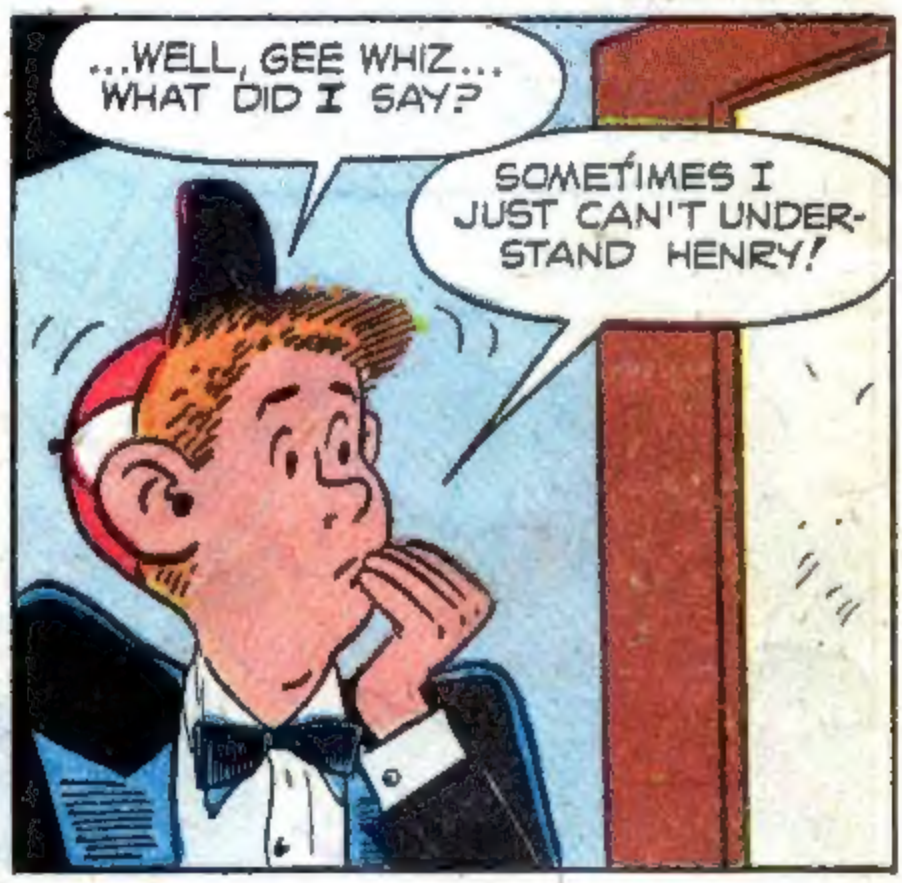
OKAY, HOMER!

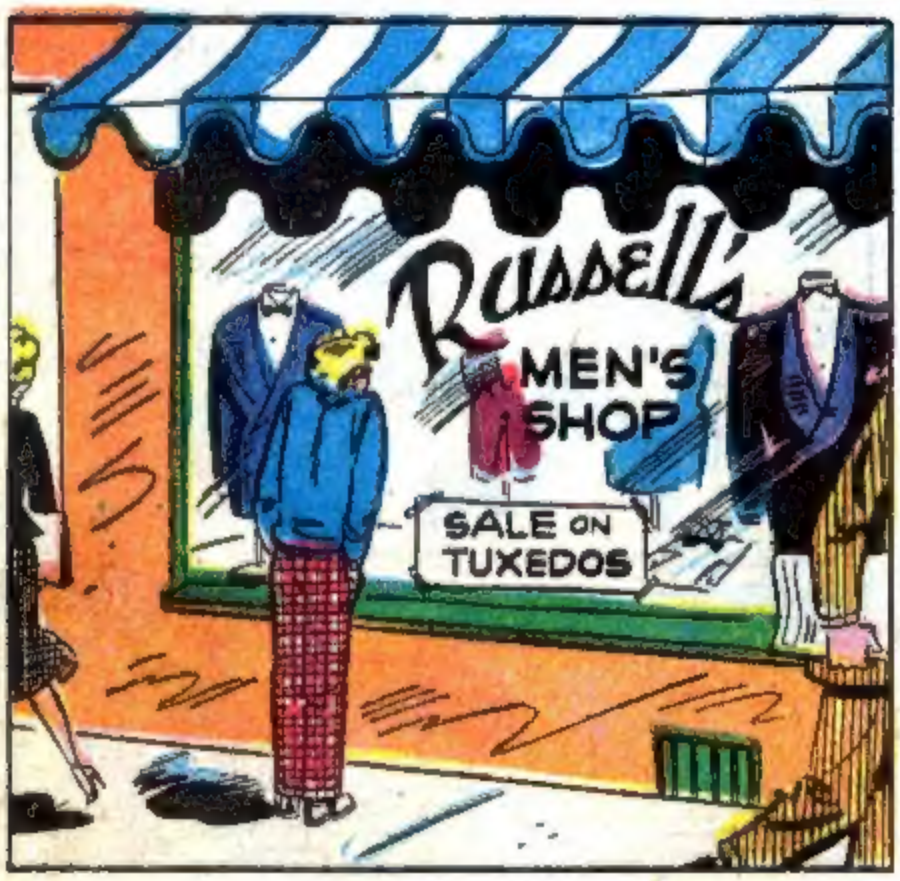
WAIT RIGHT THERE, HENRY! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

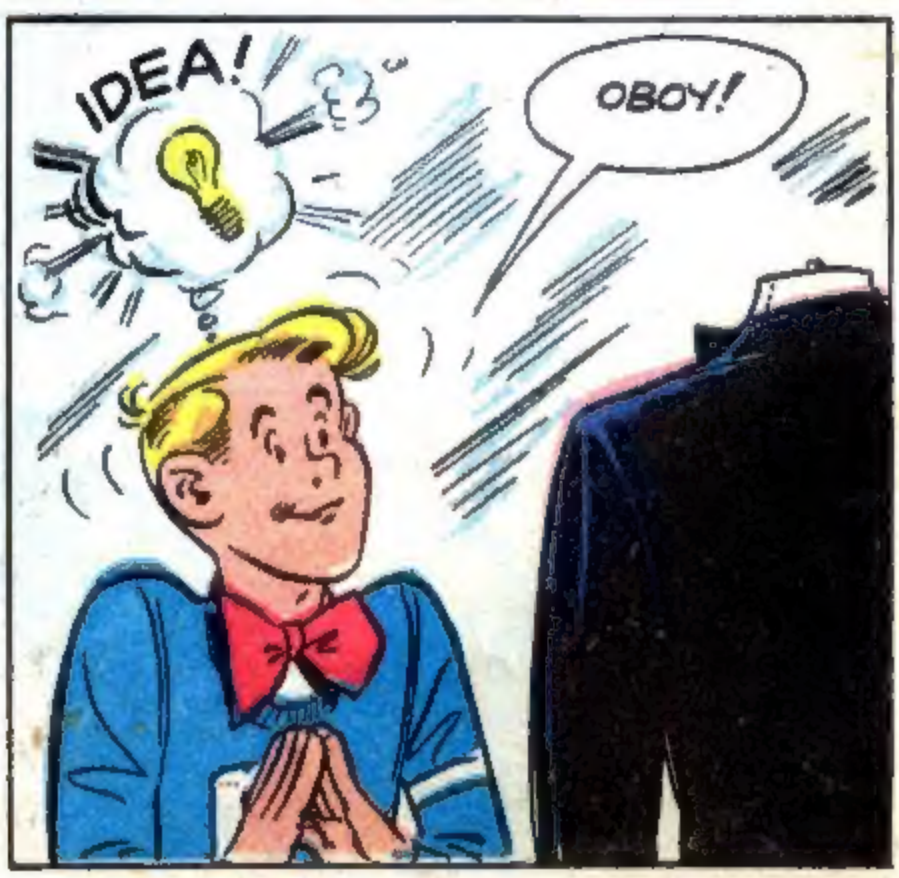

WELL?
HUH?


OH, GREAT, HOMER! JUST WHAT I NEEDED TO CHEER ME UP... YOUR NEW TUXEDO!


GOOD-BYE!
SLAM!


...WELL, GEE WHIZ... WHAT DID I SAY?
SOMETIMES I JUST CAN'T UNDER-STAND HENRY!


Russell's
MEN'S SHOP
SALE ON TUXEDOS


IDEA!
OBOY!

TUXEDOS? YES, SIR! JUST STEP BACK TO THE COLLEGE SHOP, PLEASE!

I'M ONLY IN HIGH SCHOOL, IS THAT ALL RIGHT?

COLLEGE SHOP

THIS ONE SEEMS TO BE A PERFECT FIT.

HMMM...

COLLEGE SHOP

YES, I'LL TAKE THIS ONE!

FINE, SIR!... NOW, WILL THAT BE CASH, OR CHARGE?

NEITHER!

?

HUH?

I SAID, NEITHER!

THIS KID MUST BE CRAZY...

PERHAPS IF I CALLED THE MANAGER, YOU MIGHT EXPLAIN...

THAT WILL BE FINE, THANK YOU!

NEITHER! ...HUMPH!

GEE WHIZ... I HOPE THIS WORKS!

TEN MINUTES LATER...

...YES, YOUNG MAN, I BELIEVE I UNDERSTAND YOUR PROBLEM, AND I SYMPATHIZE WITH YOU! I ALSO ADMIRE YOUR BOLDNESS--I THINK!

EXIT

OH, THANK YOU, SIR!

YOU MAY WORK FOR THREE WEEKS AFTER SCHOOL AND SATURDAYS. THAT WILL JUST ABOUT COVER THE WHOLESALE PRICE OF THE TUXEDO.

OH, THANK YOU, SIR!

THANK YOU, SIR.

HOW CAN I EVER...

NOW, STOP GROVELING AND GET TO WORK!

STOCK ROOM

TAKE OFF THAT TUXEDO AND GO DOWN TO THE STOCK ROOM!

PUT LABELS ON THOSE SIX HUNDRED NEW SOCKS!

UNPACK THOSE FIFTY NEW SUITS!

YES, SIR!

EMPTY THE WASTEBAS-KETS!

YES, SIR!

YES, SIR!

...AND WHEN YOU FINISH THAT, YOU CAN START MAKING DELIVERIES!

YES, SIR!

NEXT DAY...

GEE, HOMER, IT'S SWELL OF YOU TO HELP ME DELIVER THESE PACKAGES...

THINK NOTHING OF IT, HENRY. ANYTHING FOR AN OLD PAL!

...I'D HAVE TO USE RUSSELL'S MOTOR SCOOTER IF YOU DIDN'T HELP ME OUT.

BUS STOP

NOW LET'S SEE... THE NEXT ONE IS TWO-FIFTEEN ELM-HURST.

THAT'S JUST AROUND THE NEXT CORNER, HENRY... THAT'S WHERE--

QUIET, HOMER. LET ME CHECK OFF THESE ADDRESSES!

HERE WE ARE, HENRY!

YEP... TWO FIF--

OMIGOSH!

FRAGILE

HOMER, THIS IS GERALDINE'S HOUSE!

DRIVE ON, QUICK!

I TRIED TO--

HENRY!

HI, GERALDINE!

GEE WHIZ!

FRAGILE

YOU'LL HAVE TO FACE HER NOW, HENRY! SHE'S SEEN US!

BUCK UP, HENRY, BE NONCHALANT... QUIT WORRYING... YOU'RE EARNING YOUR TUX, AREN'T YOU?

YES, BUT..

HELLO, HENRY!

H-HELLO, GERALDINE.

'LO, GER-ALDINE!

I-I HAVE A PACKAGE FOR YOUR MOTHER FROM RUSSELL'S, GERALDINE. I...

OH, ARE YOU WORK-ING AT RUSSELL'S, HENRY?

YOU SEE, GERALDINE... I...ER...

WHY, I'LL BET THAT'S WHY I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR SO LONG, , HENRY!

I'VE BEEN WORK-ING TO EARN A NEW TUXEDO SO I COULD ASK...

...ASK ME TO THE FORMAL?

HENRY, HOW SWEET! THAT EXPLAINS EVERY-THING!

Y-YOU MEAN YOU AREN'T MAD, OR ANYTHING?

OF COURSE NOT, HENRY!

AND JUST TO PROVE IT...

SMACK!

GEE WHIZ!

YOU TOLD HER THE TRUTH AND SHE WASN'T SORE... I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WOMEN!

NEITHER WILL I, HOMER...

... ISN'T IT WONDERFUL?

AND FINALLY, THE DAY BEFORE THE DANCE...

HELLO, MOTHER! I'VE GOT SOMETHING VERY INTERESTING TO TELL FATHER!

HE'LL BE HOME ANY MINUTE, DEAR!

HELLO, DEAR! WHERE'S HENRY?

I THINK HE'S UPSTAIRS, SAM.

TELL HIM DINNER WILL BE READY IN A FEW MINUTES.

I JUST STOPPED BY RUSSELL'S AND PICKED UP HIS TUXEDO! I BOUGHT IT WEEKS AGO.

HE'LL BE SO HAPPY, SAM, DEAR, TO REALIZE HE CAN GO TO THE FORMAL AFTER ALL.

HENRY! I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU!

COMING, FATHER!

YES, FATHER?

I BOUGHT YOU A TUXE-EEE--!

HENRY! WHAT IS THAT YOU'RE WEARING?

MY NEW TUXEDO, FATHER.

I- EARNED IT!

BUT YOU... THAT IS ...I-I-I--!

WHAT'S ALL THE SHOUTING OUT HERE?

SAM! YOUR BLOOD PRES-SURE!

IT--IT WAS GOING TO BE A SURPRISE! I GOT YOU A TUXEDO, TOO, HENRY!

WELL... GEE WHIZ!

SAM! CALM DOWN!

EXCUSE ME, FATHER... THE PHONE'S RINGING!

R-R!NG!

BUT, ALICE, HOW COULD... I MEAN ...I-I--

SAM, DEAR, CALM DOWN!

HELLO, HENRY—THIS IS HOMER! THEY JUST HELD A MEETING OF THE DANCE COMMITTEE AND DECIDED THE DANCE **WON'T BE FORMAL...**

WHAT? NOT FORMAL? WHY, I...

...NO, YOU SEE, HENRY, SO MANY OF THE FELLOWS COULDN'T AFFORD TUXEDOS, THEY DECIDED TO MAKE IT **INFORMAL!**

IN FACT **VERY** INFORMAL. IT'S BEEN CHANGED TO A **COUNTRY SQUARE DANCE!**

{ULP!}

H-HOMER, **I'VE GOT TWO TUXEDOS!!**

WAS THAT HOMER, DEAR?

YES, MOTHER. THE FORMAL HAS BEEN CHANGED TO AN INFORMAL **COUNTRY SQUARE DANCE!**

LET'S SEE... I'LL NEED SOME NEW BLUE JEANS... A WOOLEN CHECKERED SHIRT, AND A STRAW HAT AND--

OH, NO!

THE END

HENRY ALDRICH

HOMER, DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

GEE WHIZ!

OH, BOY!

I'VE NEVER SEEN *HER* BEFORE!

SHE MUST BE NEW...OR JUST VISITING, OR SOMETHING!

LOOK-- SHE'S TURNING DOWN MAPLE STREET!

...SHE'S GOING INTO THE OLD DAVIS HOUSE!

SHE MUST BE THE DAUGHTER OF THAT NEW FAMILY THAT JUST MOVED IN...

GEE WHIZ!

HOMER, I THINK IT'S OUR--ER--MY CIVIC DUTY TO CALL ON THEM, AND SORT OF WELCOME THEM TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD, AND SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING I--

BUT, HENRY!

"BUT HENRY," WHAT?

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT A LITTLE GIRL NAMED *GERALDINE?!!*

LISTEN, HOMER, I'M SURE GERALDINE WOULDN'T OBJECT TO AN ACT OF CIVIC-MINDED NEIGHBORLINESS!

I THINK I'LL JUST GO UP AND--

YEAH, LET'S GO!

RING!

HELLO...

HELLO... I THOUGHT I'D... THAT IS, WE... BECAUSE YOU'RE...

GEE WHIZ!

I'M HOMER BROWN, AND HE'S HENRY ALDRICH-- HENRY THOUGHT WE OUGHT TO WELCOME YOU TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND MAYBE WE COULD COMMIT SOME ACT OF CIVIC-MINDED NEIGHBORLINESS FOR YOU.

UH-HUH.

VERY PLEASED TO MEET YOU, GENTLEMEN! I'M JANE CRABTREE!

DID YOU HEAR THAT, HENRY? "GENTLEMEN!"

THERE *IS* SOMETHING YOU CAN DO... PLEASE COME IN.

JUST STEP THIS WAY... WE'LL GO BACK TO THE KITCHEN!

YOU AND YOUR BRIGHT IDEAS, HENRY!

SHE'S PROBABLY GOING TO LET US BE NEIGHBORLY BY WASHING THE DISHES!

WHATEVER IT IS, HOMER, IT'LL BE WORTH IT!

PLEASE SIT DOWN, WON'T YOU? I WAS JUST ABOUT TO HAVE A DISH OF ICE CREAM...

...I FIND THERE'S A WHOLE QUART, SO I'LL NEED A LITTLE HELP.

BOY!

GEE WHIZ!

WHAT WERE YOU SAYING ABOUT MY BRIGHT IDEAS, HOMER?

MANY SCOOPS OF ICE CREAM LATER...

I WON'T, HENRY.

THANKS AGAIN, JANE, FOR BEING SO NEIGHBORLY... AND DON'T FORGET OUR DATE!

TOMORROW AFTER SCHOOL ON THE FRONT STEPS...

♫ 'BYE, HENRY ♫

NEXT DAY AT 3:30...

4:00...

4:30...

HELLO, HENRY... ♫ ♫

HELLO, J-- GERALDINE!

DON'T LOOK SO SURPRISED, HENRY. MR. BRADLEY KEPT THE WHOLE CIVICS CLASS AFTER SCHOOL TODAY.

WERE YOU WAITING FOR SOMEONE ELSE?

YES, I WAS WAITING FOR--ULP--ER--*HOMER!* YES, *HOMER!*

OH, HOMER WON'T BE OUT FOR SOME TIME... SOMEBODY PUT GUM ON MISS PARKER'S SEAT AND HOMER'S THE CHIEF SUSPECT!

WANT TO WALK ME HOME, HENRY?

WHY--ER-- YES, OF COURSE, GERALDINE!

HERE, I'LL CARRY YOUR BOOKS.

WHAT TIME ARE YOU GOING TO CALL FOR ME FOR THE DANCE FRIDAY?

WHY, I--

HEY!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, HENRY? EVERYTHING SEEMS TO SURPRISE YOU... THAT'S ONLY GEORGE BIGELOW WITH THAT NEW CRABTREE GIRL!

HEY!

GEORGE BIGELOW! WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH--?

?

WHY, IT'S MY LITTLE FRIEND, HENRY ALDRICH!

GEORGE, HOW COME... THAT IS...WHAT ARE YOU--?

WHY DON'T YOU INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR IMPETUOUS FRIEND, MR. BIGELOW?

MISS CRABTREE, MAY I PRESENT MISS LOVE AND MR. ALDRICH.

WHY, I--

♫ CHARMED, I'M SURE, MR. ALDRICH. ♫

GOTTA GO NOW, HENRY. SO LONG!

UP-- UP-- UP--

'BYE, MR. ALDRICH. ♫ ♫

WHAT IN THE WORLD *IS* THE MATTER WITH YOU, HENRY?

SOMETIMES I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND MEN!

I *KNOW* I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WOMEN!

♫ HENRY... ♫

GEOGRAPHY II

NEXT DAY

LISTEN, JANE -- *WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?* WHAT'S *GEORGE BIGELOW GOT THAT I HAVEN'T GOT??*... AND PRETENDING YOU DIDN'T...

HISTORY I

I HAVEN'T TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW, HENRY, BUT IF YOU'D LIKE TO DROP OVER TO THE HOUSE TONIGHT—

SURE, JANE... SURE.

'BYE! ♫ ♫

'BYE, JANE.

MAYBE IT'S LIKE FATHER SAYS... "MEN WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WOMEN, BUT THEY SHOULD NEVER STOP TRYING!"

SOMETIMES I WONDER...

THAT EVENING, A SOMEWHAT BEWILDERED HENRY APPROACHES JANE CRABTREE'S HOUSE...

THERE MUST BE SOME LOGICAL REASON WHY SHE PRETENDED NOT TO RECOGNIZE ME...

HELLO?... WHY, WHAT AN UNEXPECTED PLEASURE... IT'S MR. --ER-- ALDRICH, ISN'T IT?

HUH?

HOW NICE OF YOU TO DROP BY... WON'T YOU COME IN?

BUT-- BUT-- YOU INVITED ME-- DON'T YOU--

OH-- THAT WAS PROBABLY--

SAY! WILL YOU STOP THIS KIDDING AROUND AND EXPLAIN WHY--

OH, THERE YOU ARE, HENRY!

THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU...

SEE?

TWINS!

WH-WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I?

YOU BACKED INTO THE BOOKCASE, HENRY...

...AND YOU BROKE THE FLOWER VASE.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, HENRY, DEAR?

YES, HENRY, DEAR-- HOW DO YOU FEEL?

♫ FINE! ♫ TWICE AS GOOD AS BEFORE! ♫

OKAY THEN, IT'S A DATE!

RIGHT, HENRY. WE'LL **BOTH** MEET YOU AT THE SODA BAR AFTER SCHOOL TOMORROW.

...WHAT ABOUT GERALDINE, HENRY?

LISTEN, HOMER, **I KNOW WOMEN!** IF SHE DOES HAPPEN TO SEE ME WITH THE TWINS, SHE MIGHT BE A LITTLE BIT JEALOUS, BUT THAT'LL ONLY MAKE HER LIKE ME ALL THE MORE!

...ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE YOU'D BETTER COME ALONG, TOO!

DRINK GASSY COLA

TODAY'S SPECIAL MUSTARD ICE CREAM SUNDAE

PAY WHEN SERVED

BOP!

PARDON ME, MR. ALDRICH. I BELIEVE I DROPPED MY HISTORY BOOK!

GERALDINE!!

HERE Y'ARE, GERALDINE.

IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, HOMER, AGNES IS ABOUT TO DROP HER GEOMETRY BOOK.

TODAY'S SPECIAL MUSTARD ICE CREAM SUNDAE

CLOP!

MR. BROWN, WILL YOU PLEASE RETURN MY GEOMETRY BOOK?

WELL, HENRY, DO YOU THINK WE MADE THE GIRLS JEALOUS ENOUGH?

THEY DID SEEM A LITTLE ANGRY... GEE WHIZ, I'D HATE TO LOSE GERALDINE!

NEXT DAY

...AND WHAT ABOUT THAT DANCE FRIDAY? I'LL BET AGNES AND GERALDINE WON'T GO WITH US NOW!

YEAH... GEE WHIZ!

I'LL BET THE TWINS DON'T HAVE A DATE YET... THEY'RE NEW IN TOWN.

CENTE HIGH SCHOO

GOSH, HOMER, THAT WOULDN'T BE FAIR. WE MIGHT LOSE GERALDINE AND AGNES FOR GOOD IF *WE ASKED* THE TWINS!

MMMM...

GONNA ASK THE CRAB-TREE GIRLS, EH? HOW *VERY* INTERESTING!

...SO HOW ABOUT GOING TO THE DANCE WITH ME FRIDAY, GERALDINE? HENRY AND HOMER ARE GOING TO... BZZZZ... BZZZZZZ...

OH, THEY ARE, ARE THEY?!

GEOMETRY III

AFTER SCHOOL...

COME ON, AGNES -- WE'VE GOT TO WORK FAST!

OKAY, GERALDINE, BUT WHAT?

WE HAVE TO FIND THE CRABTREE TWINS, BUT FAST!

THERE THEY ARE -- OVER THERE!

HELLO, GIRLS!... GOING TO THE DANCE FRIDAY?

WE DON'T KNOW... GEORGE AND WILLY ASKED US...

...BUT WE'RE HOPING...

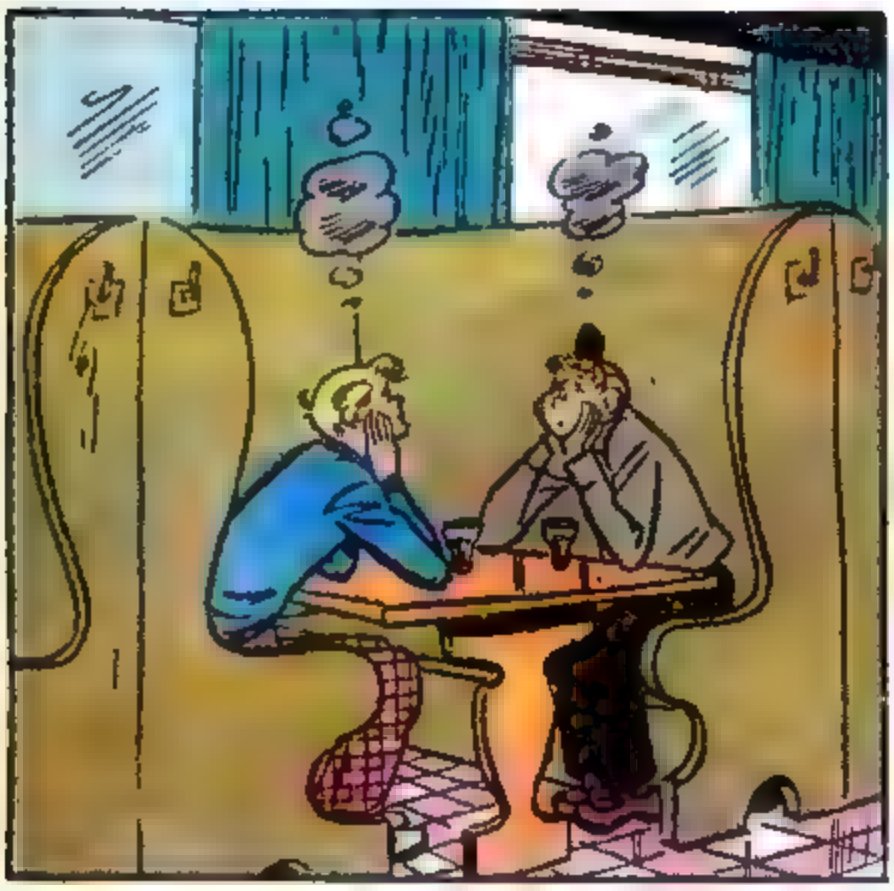
'BYE, GIRLS. WE HAVE TO RUSH OFF.

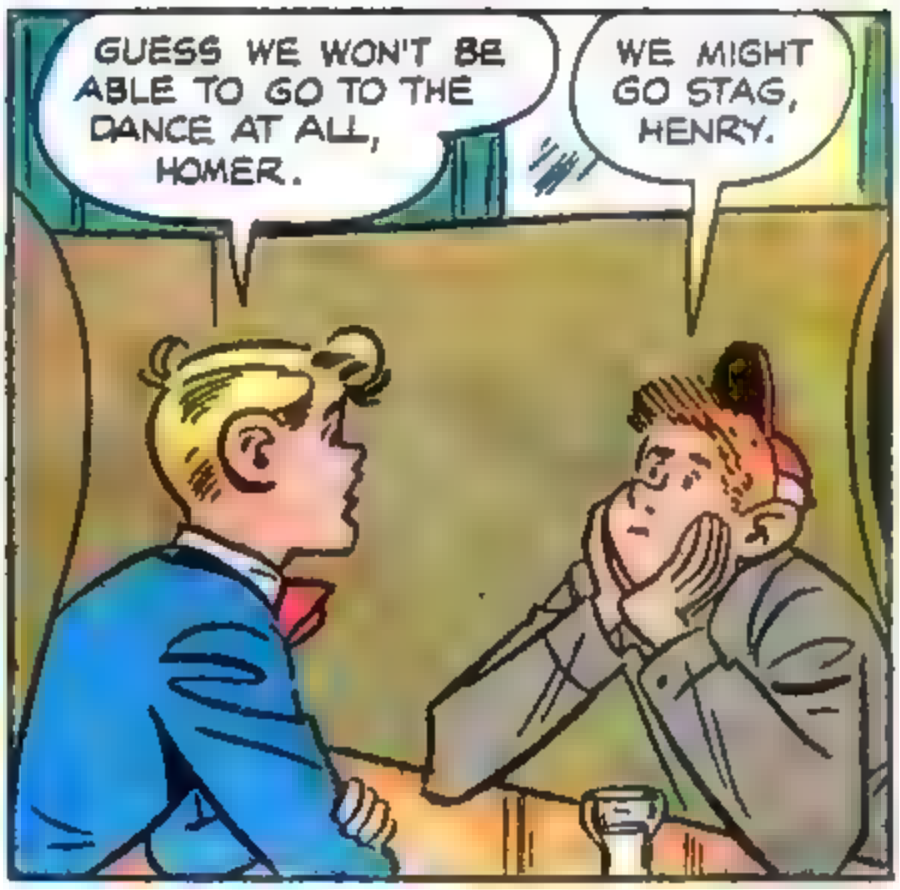
COME ON, AGNES! THEY HAVEN'T ASKED THEM YET!

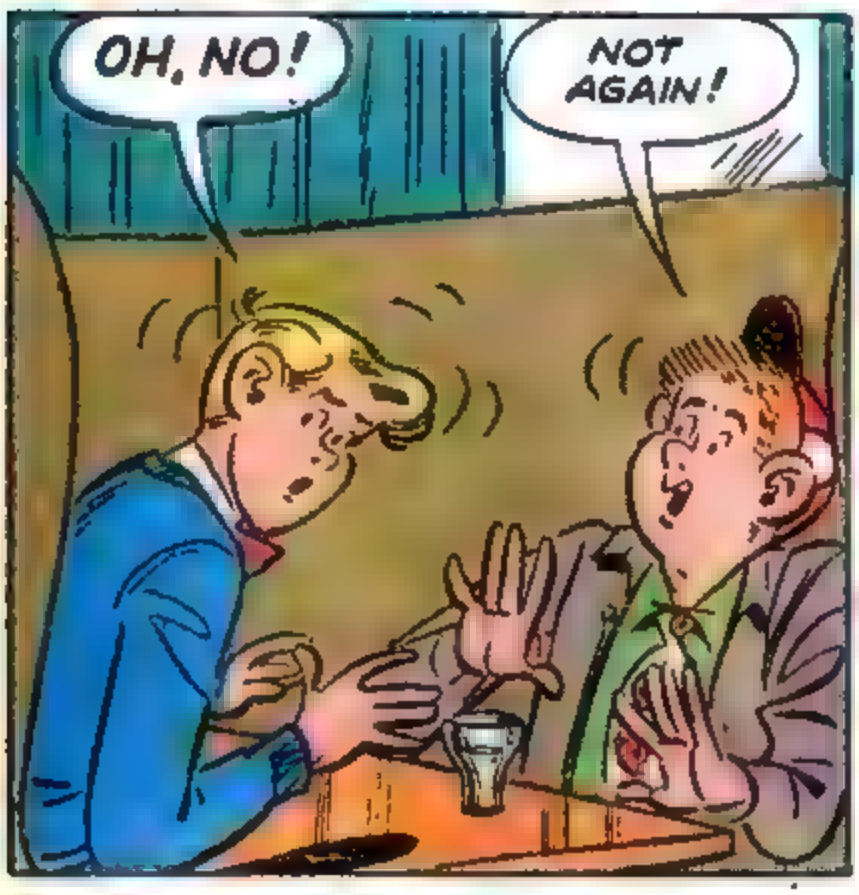
?

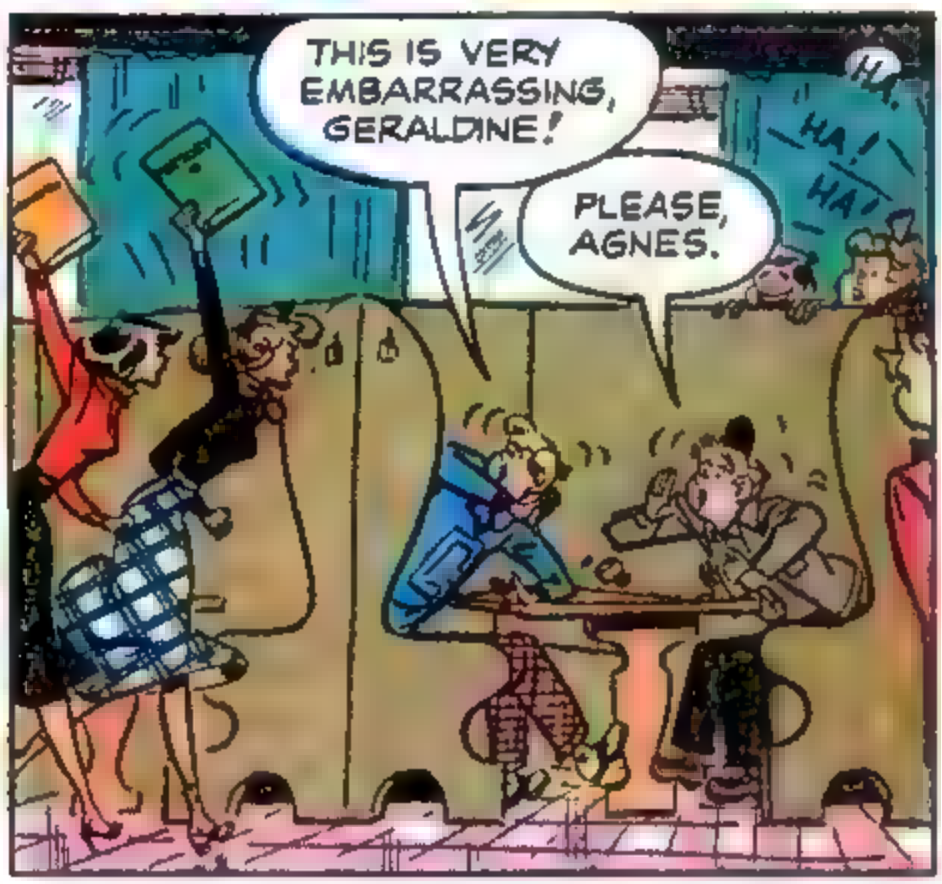
WHERE ARE WE GOING, GERALDINE?

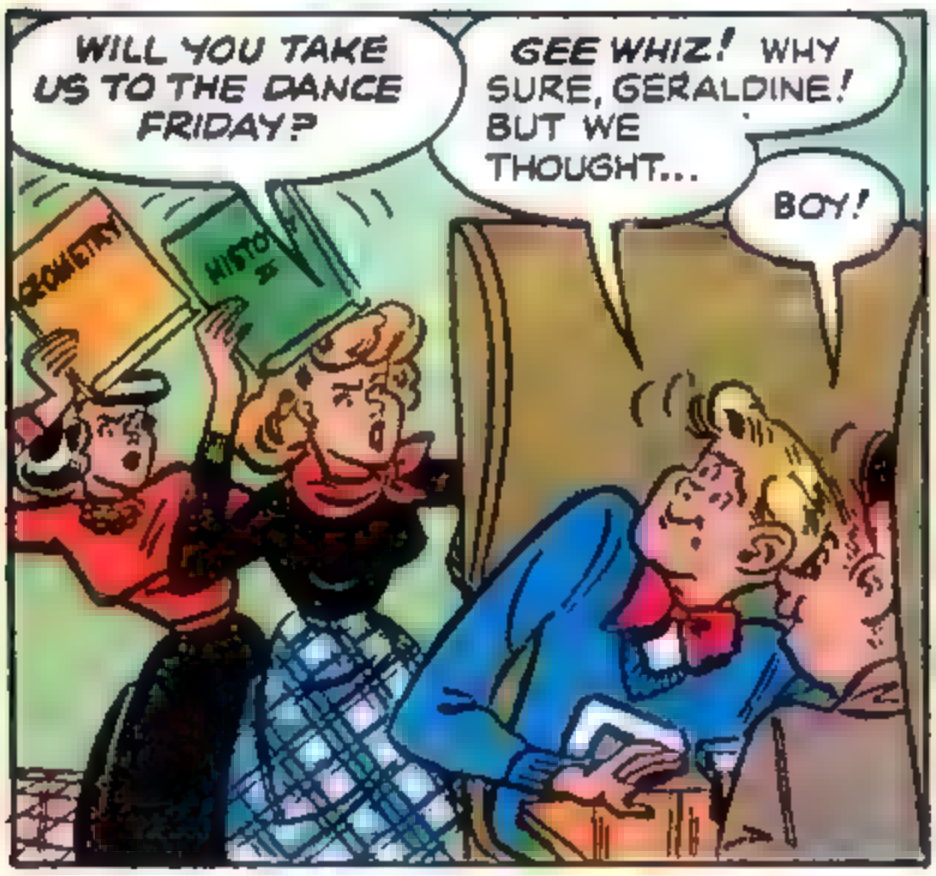
TO FIND HENRY AND HOMER! THEY'RE PROBABLY WAITING FOR THE TWINS IN THE SODA BAR!




GUESS WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO THE DANCE AT ALL, HOMER.
WE MIGHT GO STAG, HENRY.


OH, NO!
NOT AGAIN!


THIS IS VERY EMBARRASSING, GERALDINE!
PLEASE, AGNES.
HA!
HA!
HA!


WILL YOU TAKE US TO THE DANCE FRIDAY?
GEE WHIZ! WHY SURE, GERALDINE! BUT WE THOUGHT...
BOY!
GEOMETRY
HISTORY

I ALWAYS KNEW THAT HISTORY AND GEOMETRY WOULD COME IN HANDY SOME DAY, AGNES!
HISTORY

BOY, THIS IS JUST LIKE OLD TIMES!

THE TWINS ARE REALLY NICE GIRLS. WE DON'T HOLD ANY GRUDGE, HENRY.

WE WERE JUST BEING NEIGHBORLY, GERALDINE!

LISTEN, I KNOW WHAT WE REALLY OUGHT TO DO TO BE NEIGHBORLY!...LET'S GO AND GET GEORGE AND WILLY, AND MAKE SURE THE GIRLS HAVE A DATE FOR THE DANCE!

SURE!

YOU'RE SWELL, GERALDINE!

HELLO, MRS. CRABTREE, ARE THE GIRLS IN?

THEY SHOULD BE BACK ANY MINUTE NOW. THEY WENT TO THE STATION TO MEET MY ***OTHER*** DAUGHTER. WON'T YOU COME IN?

...SHE'S BEEN VISITING HER AUNT IN—

OH, THERE THEY ARE NOW!

HI, MOM!

TRIPLETS!!!

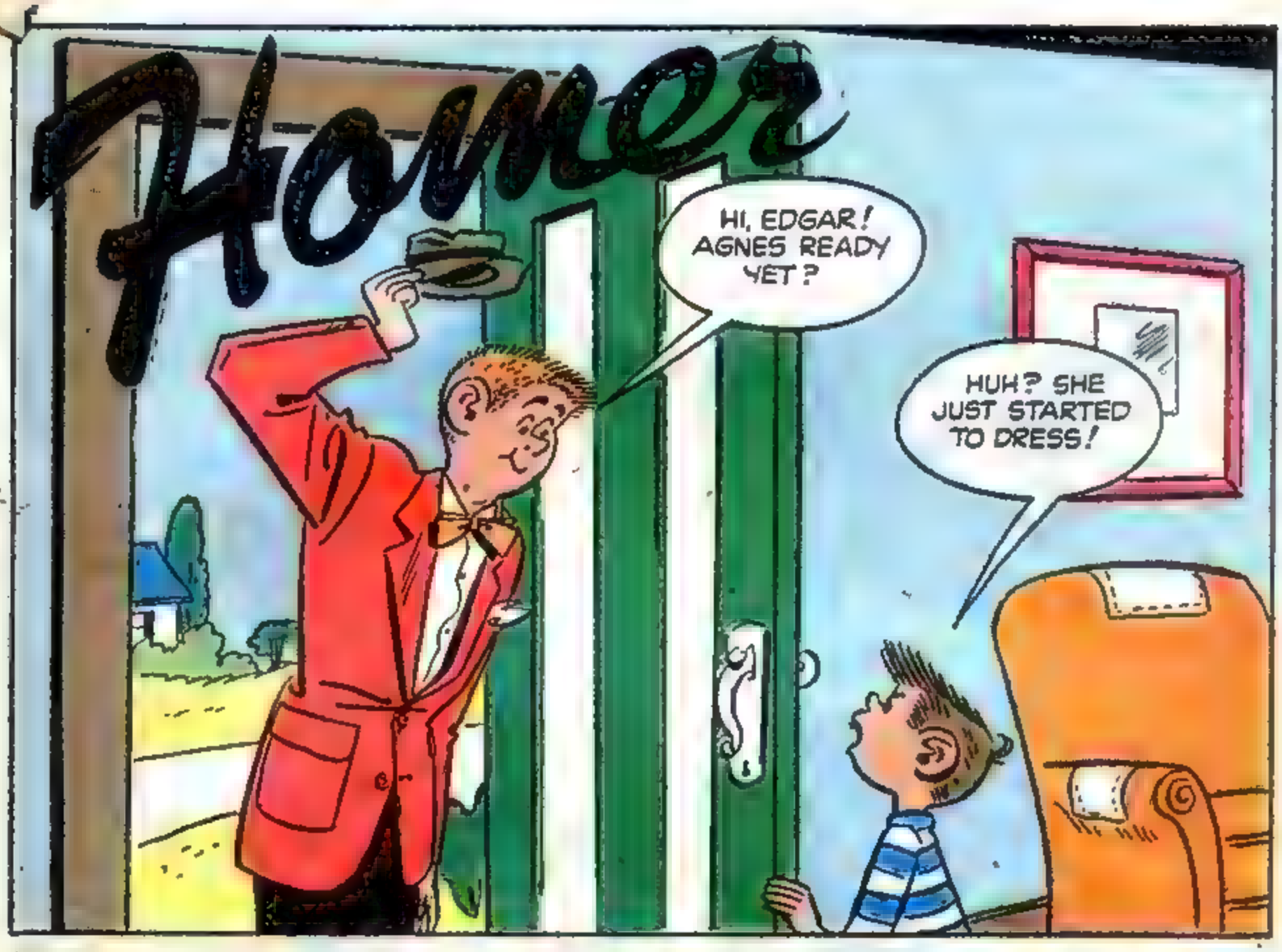
SO THIS IS THE HENRY ALDRICH YOU'VE BEEN TELLING ME ABOUT... MY, HE ***IS*** CUTE!

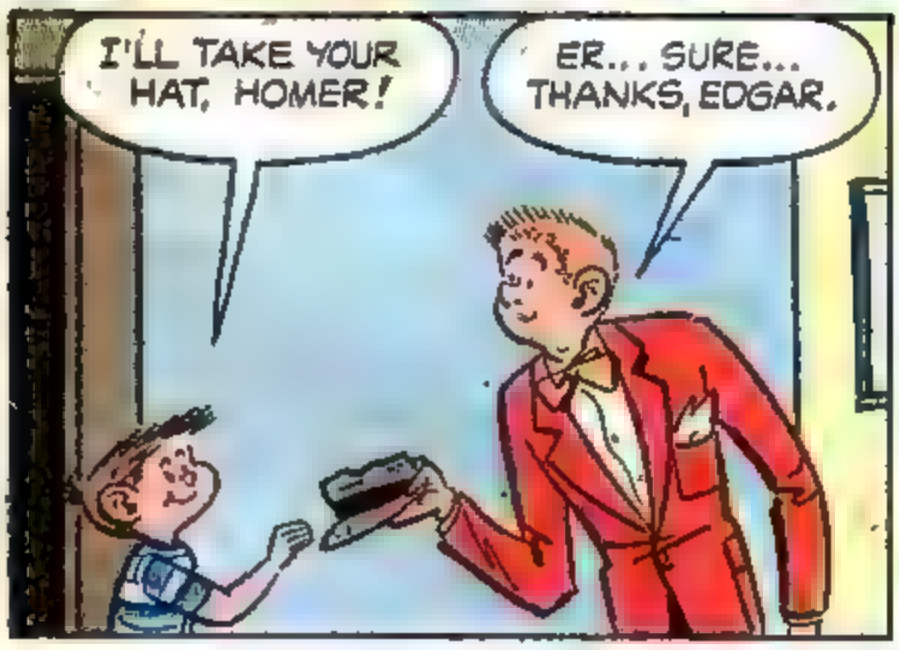
I HAVE A FEELING WE'RE GOING TO BE ***AWFULLY*** GOOD FRIENDS, HENRY!

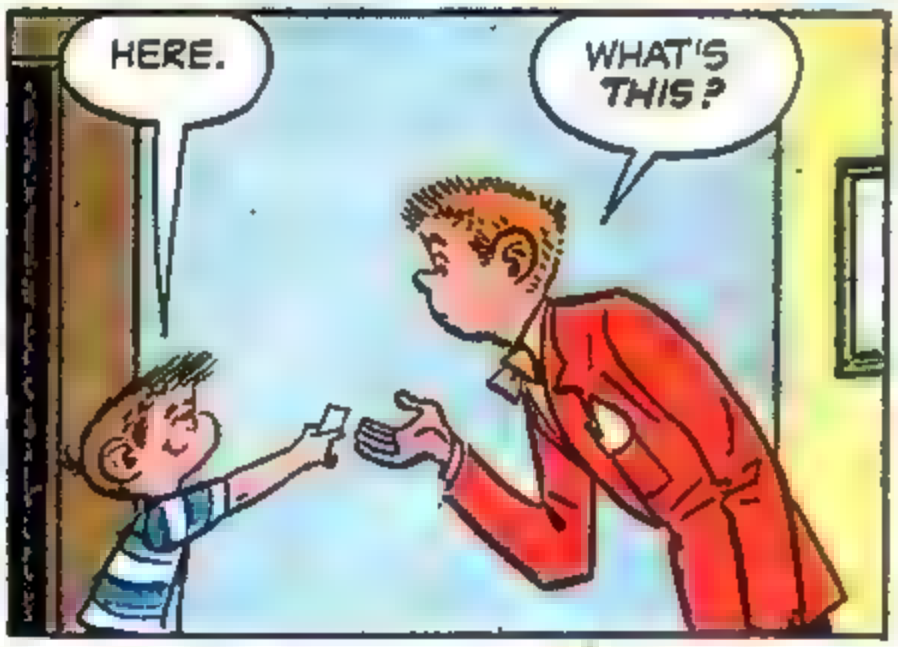
AGNES, HAND ME MY HISTORY BOOK!

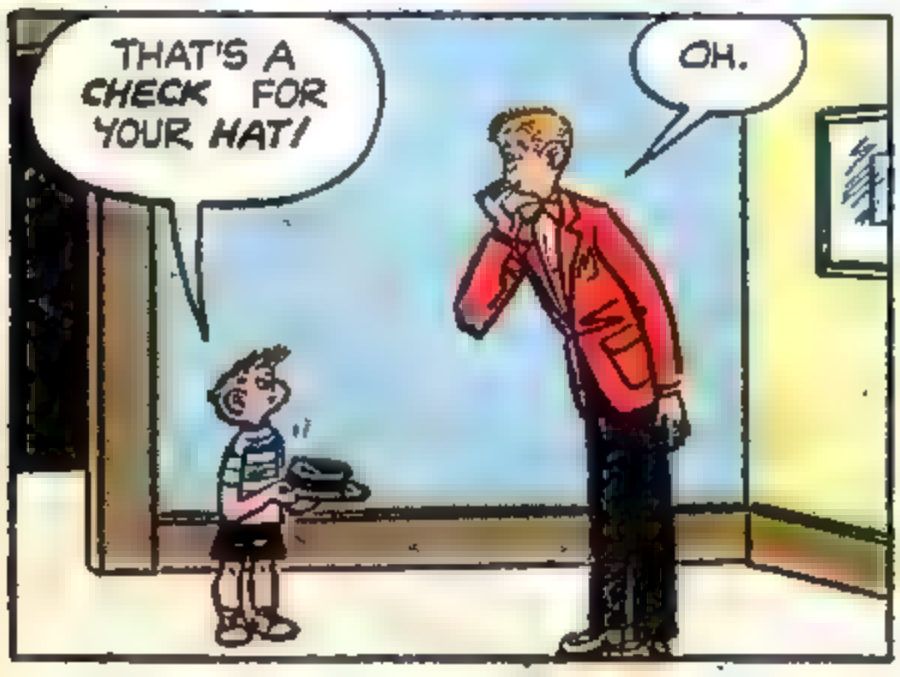
THE END

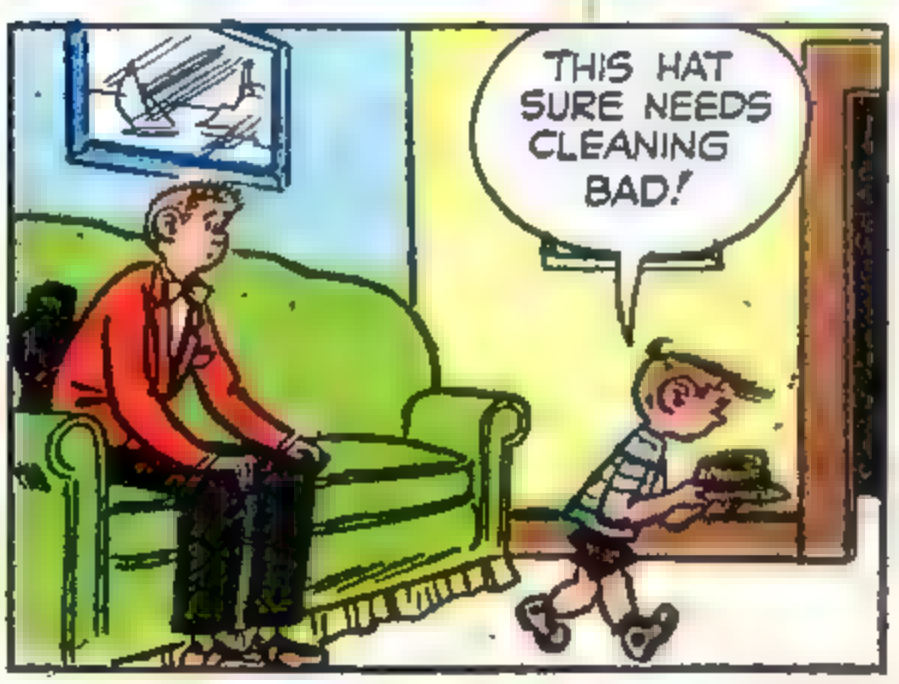
Homer

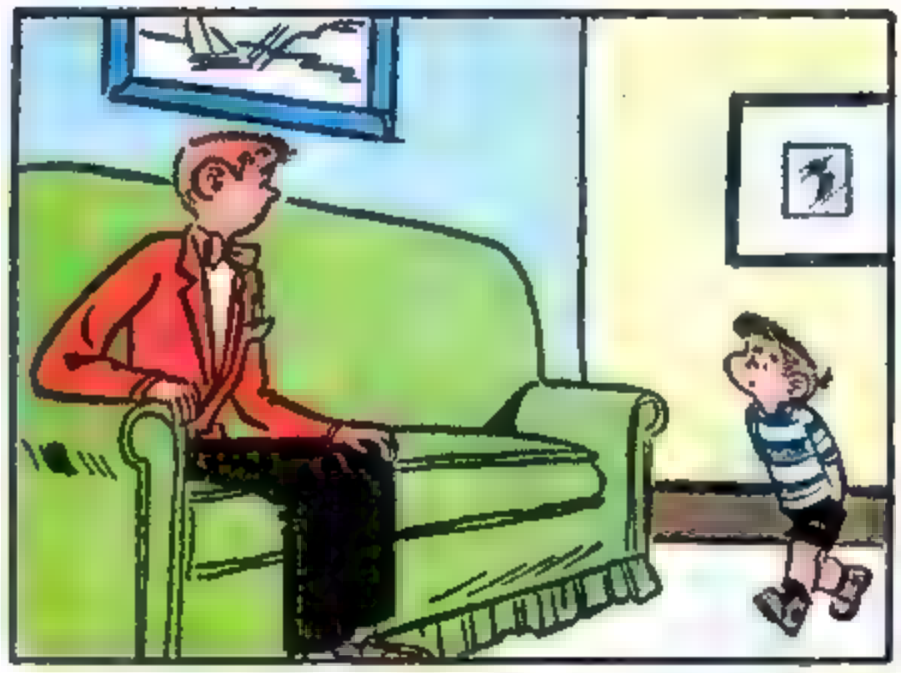

HI, EDGAR! AGNES READY YET?
HUH? SHE JUST STARTED TO DRESS!

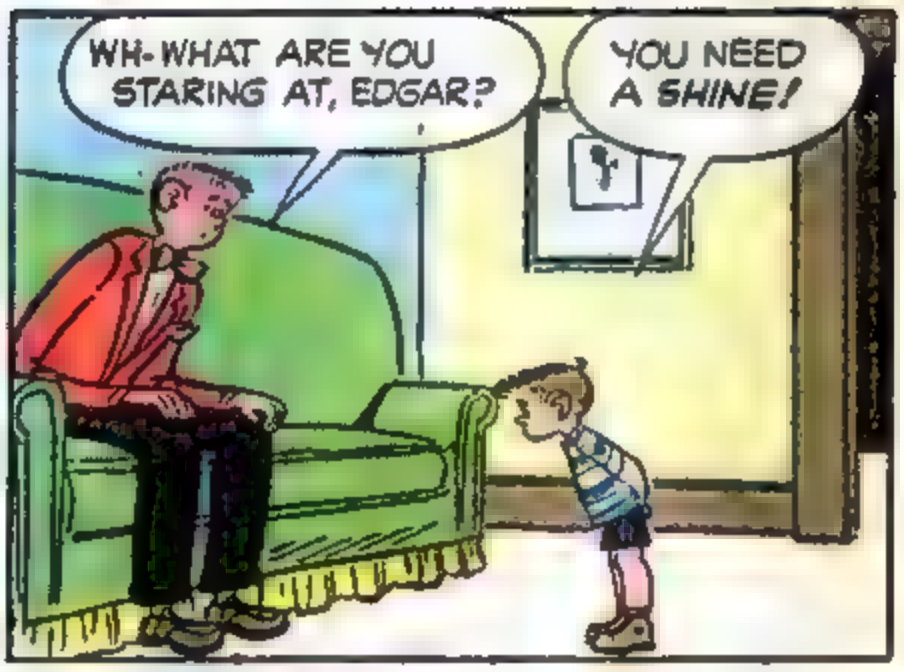

I'LL TAKE YOUR HAT, HOMER!
ER... SURE... THANKS, EDGAR.

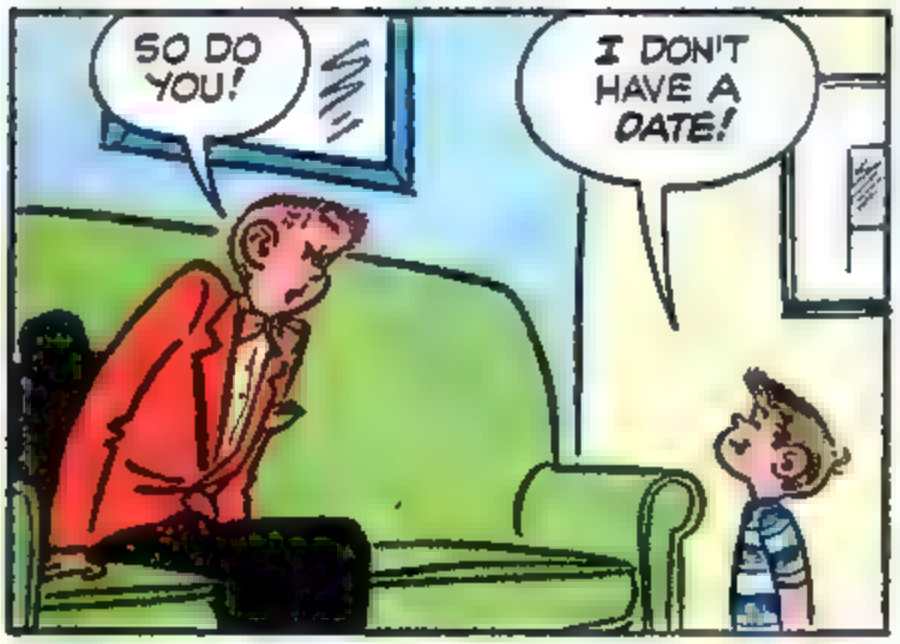

HERE.
WHAT'S THIS?

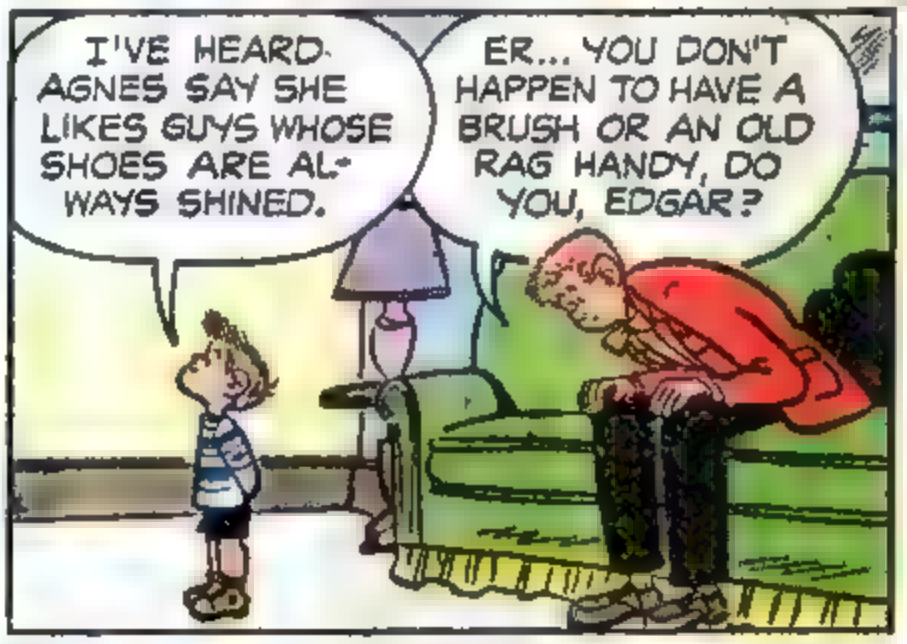

THAT'S A CHECK FOR YOUR HAT!
OH.

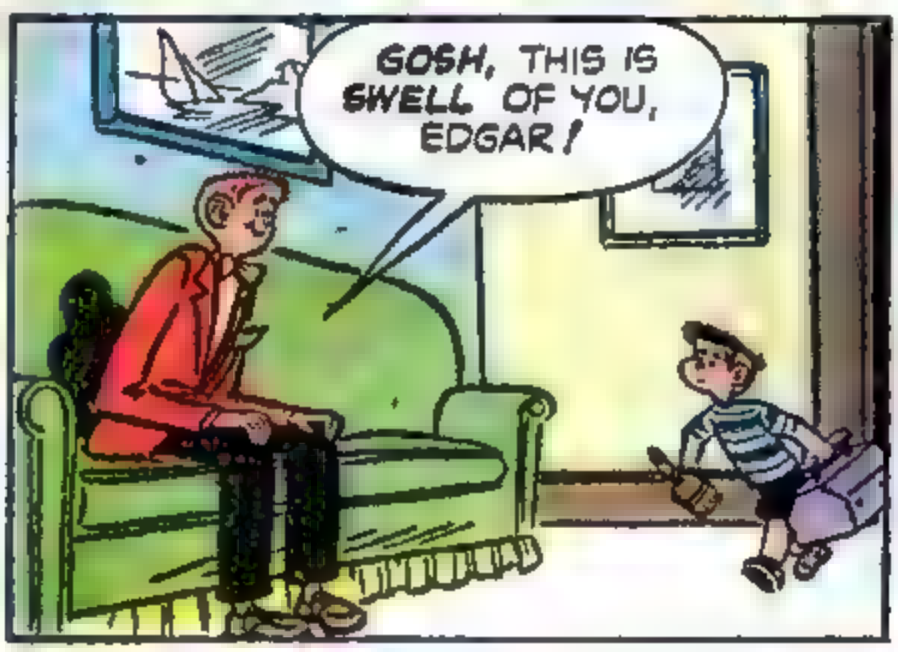

THIS HAT SURE NEEDS CLEANING BAD!

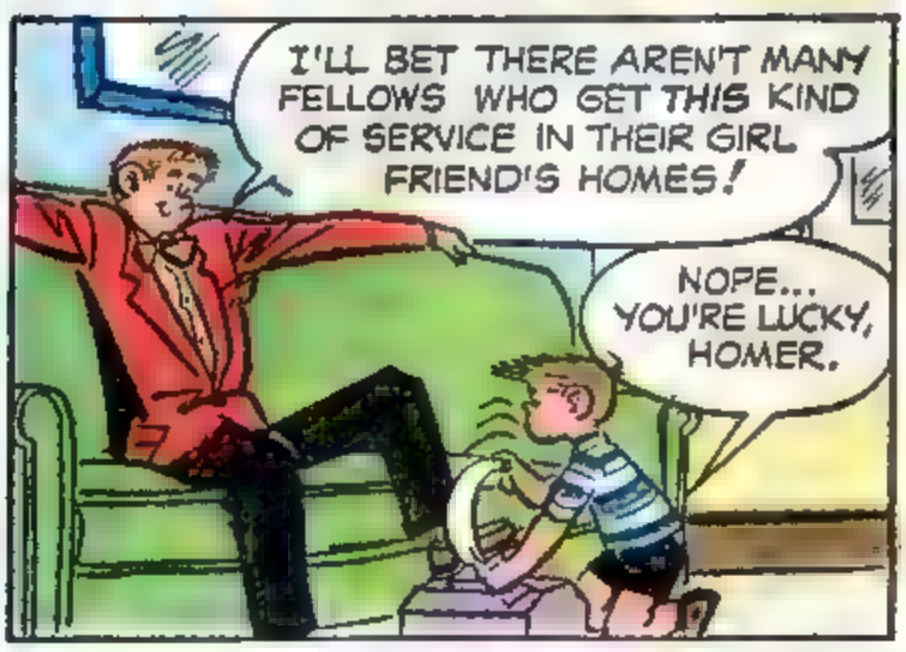


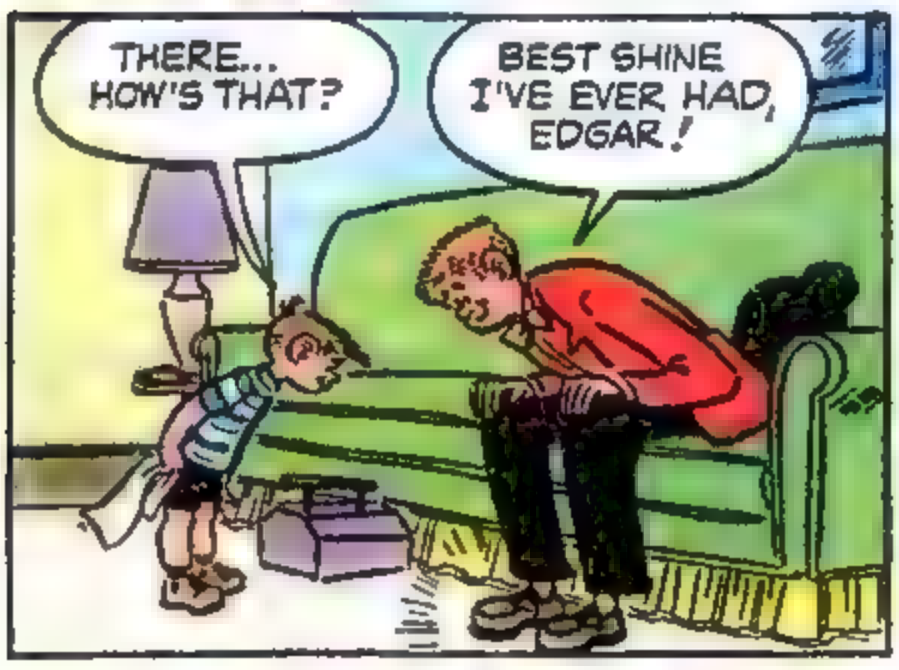

WH-WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT, EDGAR?
YOU NEED A SHINE!

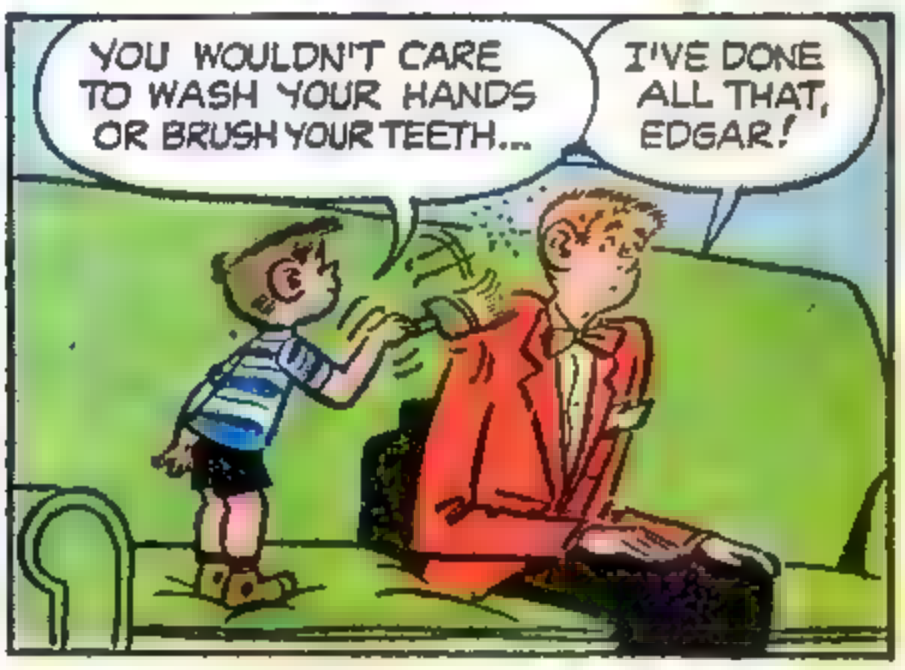

SO DO YOU!
I DON'T HAVE A DATE!


I'VE HEARD AGNES SAY SHE LIKES GUYS WHOSE SHOES ARE AL-WAYS SHINED.
ER... YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO HAVE A BRUSH OR AN OLD RAG HANDY, DO YOU, EDGAR?


GOSH, THIS IS SWELL OF YOU, EDGAR!


I'LL BET THERE AREN'T MANY FELLOWS WHO GET THIS KIND OF SERVICE IN THEIR GIRL FRIEND'S HOMES!
NOPE... YOU'RE LUCKY, HOMER.


THERE... HOW'S THAT?
BEST SHINE I'VE EVER HAD, EDGAR!


YOU WOULDN'T CARE TO WASH YOUR HANDS OR BRUSH YOUR TEETH...
I'VE DONE ALL THAT, EDGAR!

HOW ABOUT SOME CHEWING GUM WHILE YOU'RE WAITING, HOMER? OR CIGARETTES...

CIGARETTES?

THEY'RE CANDY!

I'LL TAKE A STICK OF CHEWING GUM, IF YOU DON'T MIND, EDGAR.

HELP YOURSELF.

{SNIFF} {SNIFF}

SAY--WHAT'S THAT AWFUL SMELL, EDGAR?

OH, THAT'S ONLY MY CLEANING CHEMICAL!

CLEANING CHEMICAL? WHAT'S THAT FOR?

CLEANING YOUR HAT...I'LL SEE IF IT'S READY YET!

CLEANING MY HAT!!... HEY!!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, EDGAR?

I TOLD YOU I'M CLEANING YOUR HAT!

YOU'VE RUINED IT, YOU--YOU BRAT!

KEEP YOUR SHIRT ON! I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! I MIXED THIS CHEMICAL MYSELF!

OOH!

IT JUST ISN'T READY YET, THAT'S ALL!

I WON'T MENTION THIS TO AGNES... SHE'D GET A BIG LAUGH OUT OF IT!

HI, HOMER! BEEN WAITING LONG?

NEXT DAY...

KNOCK! KNOCK!

OH, IT'S YOU! WHAT DO YOU WANT?

YOUR HAT IS READY.

GOSH! IT LOOKS BRAND-NEW! EDGAR, YOU'RE A GENIUS!

PRETTY NICE, HUH?

IT'S A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT COLOR, BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT! GOSH, THANKS, EDGAR! I'M SORRY I LOST MY TEMPER...

NOW, LET'S SEE... YOU OWE ME TWENTY-SIX CENTS!!

TWENTY-SIX CENTS?

YEH... FIVE CENTS FOR CHECKING HAT.. TEN CENTS FOR CLEANING HAT... TEN CENTS FOR SHOE SHINE... ONE CENT FOR CHEWING GUM...

I WON'T CHARGE ANYTHING FOR DUSTING YOU OFF.

EDGAR, I'LL PAY YOU GLADLY! I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE THIS HAT AGAIN!

I WONDER WHAT POP WILL SAY WHEN HE SEES HOMER WEARING HIS NEW HAT?

The End

"Yeh, I know, Homer, you thought I was a life guard. Well, I *am* going to be one next year," mumbled Henry. "Now, what do you want?"

"Just a cherry soda," said Homer. "But, golly, we've been looking all over for you!"

"W-we?" asked Henry.

"Yeh, Geraldine, George, Agnes . . . the whole gang's here!"

"Ooooh, Homer," Henry groaned, "this is awful!"

"I appreciate your predicament, Henry," said Homer, thoughtfully sipping his soda, "but what can we do?"

"Listen, Homer," Henry whispered, "how about taking over here long enough for me to play life guard? I'm sure I can get the real guard to allow me to just sit there for a while. Besides," he added hopefully, "I might even rescue somebody!"

Homer reluctantly agreed, and Henry set off to see what he could arrange.

Dressed in his bathing suit and with a towel over his head to avoid being recognized by any of his friends, Henry approached the life guard stand.

"Run along, sonny," said the big, good-natured guard when he had heard Henry's request, "you know we can't allow that sort of thing!"

"Yes, I guess so," Henry agreed sadly, "it was just a thought . . ."

He was walking back to the hot dog concession when up behind him came Geraldine and George. He couldn't escape!

"Where's your whistle and sun-helmet, Henry?" asked George pointedly. "I thought you. . . ."

"Off duty," Henry snapped.

After all, he rationalized to himself, I'm off duty from the hot-dog stand.

"Maybe you'd like to join us, Henry," Geraldine suggested, "and help us get some hot dogs for the gang. We're on our way to the stand now."

Henry gulped, "Well, . . . I . . . er . . ."

Suddenly there was a cry, "Help! Help!"

It came from a swimmer beyond the breakers directly out from where the three friends stood.

Here was Henry's chance. He was desperate! Without thinking, he plunged into the surf and headed for the distressed swimmer! Down the beach, the life guard had also heard the call for help and quickly followed Henry into the water. An excited crowd began to gather and to watch the bobbing heads far out in the surf.

Waiting on the beach, they saw the life guard struggling back. He was having trouble, but finally emerged with the help of several spectators. His difficulty was that he had to bring in not one, but *two* swimmers, a middle-aged woman, and a teen-aged boy—Henry Aldrich, suffering from minor stomach cramps. It seems, in his haste to be a hero, Henry had forgotten the numerous hot-dogs he had consumed that morning.

Just then, Homer broke through the crowd.

"Henry," he cried, "your boss at the hot-dog stand is looking for you. I think you'd better get back if you want to keep your job!"

Henry just groaned.

And thus began Henry Aldrich's summer vacation!

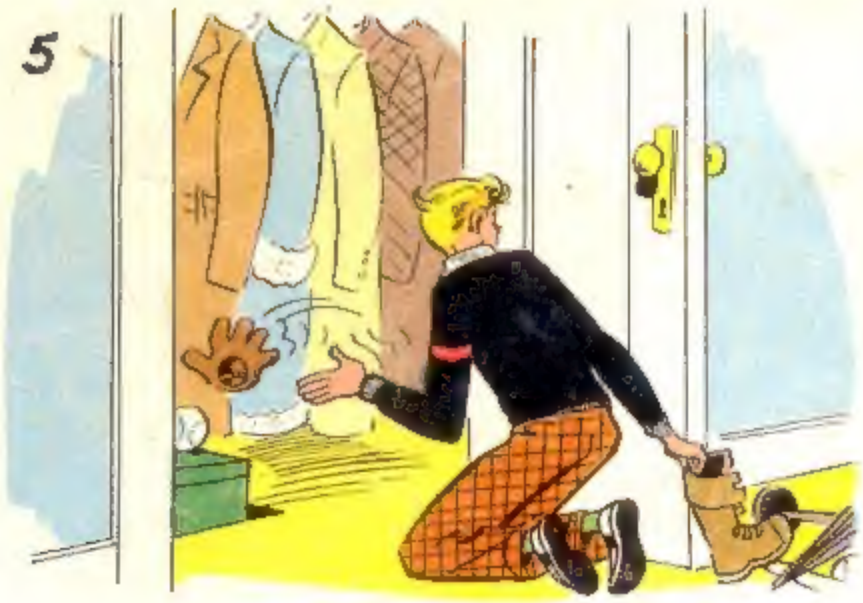
1

2

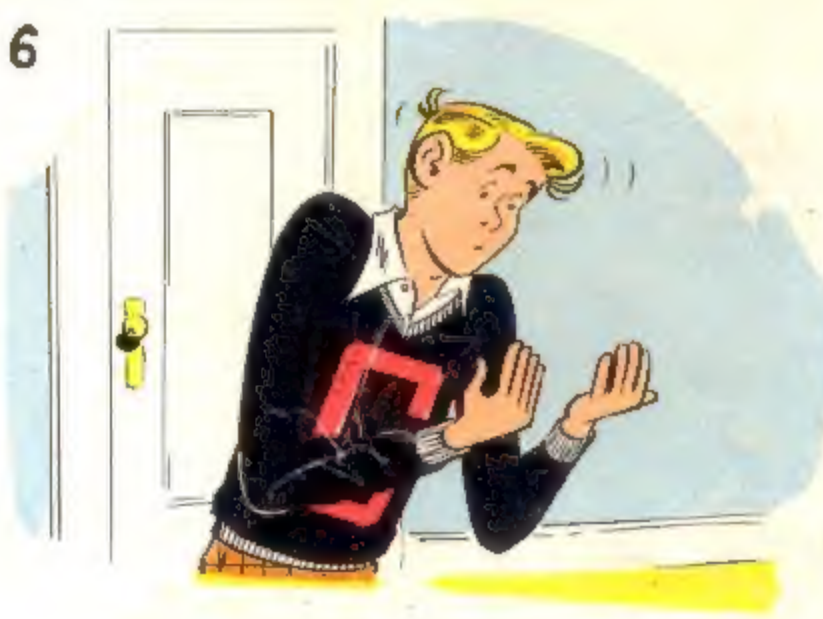
3

4

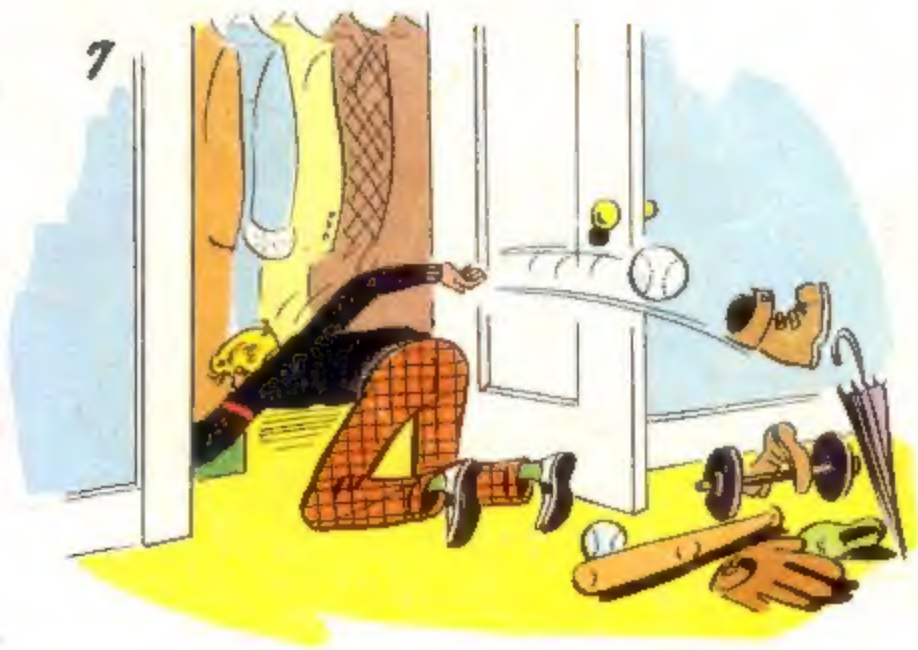
5



6



7



8